



Charlie Johnson/Colorado Daily

The house that junk built

Julee Herdt, an assistant professor of architecture and planning at CU-Denver, and Mick Follari, site supervisor, show models of the office building they are constructing for the Boulder Energy Conservation Center. The building, at 61st Street in Boulder, was designed by CU-Denver students and will be constructed using old building materials salvaged by the BECC. See story, Page 3.

Yesterday's junk becomes tomorrow's office building

By LAURIE KAY OLSON
For the Colorado Daily

During the next month, students from the College of Architecture and Planning at CU-Denver will be constructing a building for the Boulder Energy Conservation Center's Resource 2000 offices in a collaborative effort the two organizations have dubbed the Sunbonnet Project.

The 200-square-foot building will be constructed using recycled materials the project has been collecting for more than a year.

Because the building site on 61st Street is only a temporary home for the BECC, the structure had to be designed so that it could be easily moved.

"The building has to come apart in about a year," said Julee Herdt, the assistant professor whose students have taken on the design and building of the project.

"The building can be moved with five people and a couple of wrenches," said Mike Moore, a first-year graduate student. It can then be transported by truck, he said.

One of the missions of the BECC is to teach the public how to reuse solid-waste materials, and staff members hope the construction of this building will do just that.

"The class is donating their time, and we're getting this wonderful thing out of it," said Sue Wallace, project coordinator for the BECC. "It's educating citizens about a new way to use materials."

"We're trying to show people that these materials can be beautiful," said Herdt. Hollow-core doors will become wood paneling, while the floor will be a mosaic made of old tiles. "It's self-sufficient, which means it uses no electricity."

The passive solar design will allow the building to stay warm in winter and cool in summer by using a flange system on the south side of the building, employing moveable walls for cross ventilation, and utilizing a mass wall for heat absorption, storage and distribution.

Old barn doors will allow the building to be opened up to the north and west.

"The whole design was a gestural move to take advantage of the view of the foothills," explained Eric Thuerk, a third-year graduate student whose design was chosen from among the 12 created by class members.

"We're hoping to divert more materials from landfills," explained Herdt. "We want to show people this can be reused, so people won't even think of landfills."